United Nations A/66/836

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 June 2012
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 163

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Noel **González Segura** (Mexico)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 31st and 38th meetings, on 7 May and 12 June 2012. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/66/SR.31 and 38).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (A/66/573);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/66/681);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/66/718/Add.6).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.41

4. At its 38th meeting, on 12 June, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" (A/C.5/66/L.41), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Hungary.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.41 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 2044 (2012) of 24 April 2012, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 30 April 2013,

Recalling also its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 65/304 of 30 June 2011,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/___ of __ June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 30 April 2012, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 46.0 million United States dollars, representing some 5 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only ninety-nine Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

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[1] A/66/573 and A/66/681.

[2] A/66/718/Add.6.

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/___;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

11. *Regrets* the cancellation of the green technology project of the Mission, and underlines that budget proposals for such projects should be based on well-researched planning assumptions and, to the extent possible, demonstrated potential for the realization of efficiency gains;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to adjust the ratios of Mission staff to vehicle and computer holdings in accordance with the standard ratios established for peacekeeping operations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixty-seventh session;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011

13. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011;[3]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

14. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the amount of 60,796,600 dollars for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, inclusive of 58,253,000 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 2,411,900 dollars for the support account for

[3] A/66/573.

peacekeeping operations and 131,700 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

15. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 50,663,834 dollars for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 April 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 64/249 of 24 December 2009, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2012, as set out in Assembly resolution 64/248 of 24 December 2009, and for 2013;[4]

16. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 15 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,144,750 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,900,500 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 201,583 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 42,667 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

17. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 10,132,766 dollars for the period from 1 May to 30 June 2013, at a monthly rate of 5,066,383 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in resolution 64/249, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013,[4] subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

18. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 17 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 428,950 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 380,100 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 40,317 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 8,533 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

19. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 15 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 1,138,100 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2011, in accordance with the levels updated in resolution 64/249, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2011, as set out in its resolution 64/248;

20. *Decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 1,138,100 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2011, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 19 above;

21. *Also decides* that the increase of 276,600 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2011 shall be

[4] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

added to the credits from the amount of 1,138,100 dollars referred to in paragraphs 19 and 20 above;

22. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

23. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Mission under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

24. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".